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## Letter dated 16 May 2008 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have received the attached letter, dated 8 May 2008, from the Prime Minister of Lebanon (see annex), Mr. Fuad Siniora, in which he expresses the hope, on behalf of his Government, that the Security Council will respond favourably to the request of Commissioner Daniel Bellemare for the extension of the mandate of the International Independent Investigation Commission to 31 December 2008.

I thank the Government of Lebanon for its continued support of the Commission. I also welcome the request of Mr. Bellemare for the extension of the mandate of the Commission and believe that such an extension would assist the investigation.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

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## Annex

### Letter dated 8 May 2008 from the Prime Minister of Lebanon addressed to the Secretary-General

At its meeting on 5 May, during which matters pertaining to your report to the Security Council on the Special Tribunal for Lebanon [S/2008/173] were discussed, the Council of Ministers noted with great satisfaction the steady progress which has been made in the establishment of the Tribunal pursuant to Security Council resolution 1757 (2007).

The cabinet also welcomed your decision to appoint Judge Daniel Bellemare as Prosecutor of the Special Tribunal, hoping that he will assume his responsibilities in this capacity soon.

The Lebanese Government took note of the request of Mr. Bellemare, made on 8 April 2008, to the Security Council to extend the mandate of the International Independent Investigation Commission established in accordance with Security Council resolution 1595 (2005). We hope that the Security Council will respond favourably to this request by extending the Commission's mandate until 31 December 2008.

We are pleased that the ongoing preparations for the beginning of the functioning of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon are proceeding as planned, including the timely establishment of the Office of the Prosecutor.

(*Signed*) Fuad **Siniora**